

VZCZCXR09980

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ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 261405Z JUN 09
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4451
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 000386

OES FOR S/E TODD STERN AND CLIMATE TEAM

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: SENV KGHG PREL ECON SW

SUBJECT: Swedish views on the third MEF

¶1. (SBU) Lars-Erik Liljelund, PM Reinfeldt's Director General for Climate told us on June 24 that the third MEF meeting was "much better than the Paris MEF". Liljelund is pleased with the progress on financing, adaptation, and technology transfer, but is concerned about the large gaps between particularly Brazil and India on the one hand, and the developing world on the other, as regards mitigation. Liljelund characterized the Chinese as being "constructive, even though they come up with some rather crazy proposals". He expressed concern about the tough stance taken by Brazil at the meeting.

¶2. (SBU) Given the many brackets in the declaration text, Liljelund predicted that the end result at the MEF Leaders' meeting may end up being a Chairman's conclusions -- a little weaker than a joint declaration, but a possible solution. Such conclusions would then outline where the differences lie. Liljelund commented "curiously, the Indians did not have any problems with that."

¶3. (SBU) Liljelund also told us that the U.S. will now discuss bilaterally to prepare for the Leader's meeting in July, noting that the Chair and State Department will likely need to engage intensely with Brazil, but also with the EU on some points of disagreement. Liljelund predicted that most of the contacts relating to the EU will be made with the Director General of DG Environment, Karl Falkenberg (who mostly spoke on behalf of Europe), but he also predicted direct consultations with major EU countries like U.K., France, Germany, and Italy.

¶4. (SBU) Liljelund told us that he expects that the EU will "never" agree to the U.S. proposal to accept differing base years in a final Leaders' declaration. The other slight issue of division between the U.S. and the EU relating to a wording regarding financing, opening up for voluntary contributions, is likely less of a stumbling block, according to Liljelund. The EU position is to avoid references opening up for that contributions to a financing scheme can be of a voluntary nature.

¶5. (SBU) In closing, Liljelund expressed some frustration over the fact that too many of the participants at the MEF are also deeply involved in the UNFCCC negotiations. The MEF talks therefore tend to be a duplication of motions that also take place during the regular negotiations. A more dynamic process could have been achieved with leader's representatives. As an example, Liljelund mentioned President Calderon's speech at the Mexico MEF, saying that Calderon gave a "fiery speech, and was much more engaged and engaging than Mexico's MEF representative."

SILVERMAN